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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gardner et al.
Serial No: 09/483,653
Confirmation No.: 8646
Filed: January 14, 2000
For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING ANIMAL
SOUNDS TO LURE ANIMALS

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Art Unit: 3712

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 22 to read as follows.

While the use of electronic animal calling devices that include a pre-recorded library of animals calls provides a number of advantages, applicants have discovered that such systems are limited in their effectiveness. For example, conventional electronic animal calling devices only produce vocal animal sounds and animal-to-animal contact sounds that are produced by contact between two or more animals (e.g., the rattling together of the antlers of two bucks). Applicants have discovered that animals can be more effectively lured to a particular area by producing calls that also mimic what is referred to herein as environmental contact sounds, which refer to sounds made by an animal contacting an inanimate object indigenous to its environment such as, for example, the ground, trees, bushes, shrubs, brush and grass. In addition, conventional electronic animal calling devices, while providing a library of calls, provide limited flexibility to the hunter. In this respect, each call is a relatively lengthy fixed sequence of vocal sounds or animal-to-animal contact sounds, which must be played in its entirety every time it is played. Thus, although the hunter can choose from one of several different call sequences, the hunter has no capability of customizing different calls using particular animal sounds. The term animal sounds

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A1 is used herein to refer generally to vocal animal sounds, animal-to-animal contact sounds and environmental contact sounds.

✓ Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 23 to read as follows.

A2 Alternatively, in another embodiment of the invention, a different type of volume control is employed, wherein the signal 14 output from the SPC251A sound controller maintains a constant amplitude, and signal carrier 46 is connected to ground by a plurality of resistors connected in parallel (not shown). In this embodiment, the audio control unit can include circuitry that produces a resistor on/off signal for each of the plurality of resistors in response to volume up or down commands received from keypad 30. For example, if three resistors are connected in parallel between the signal carrier 46 and ground, then the audio processing unit can include three resistor on/off signals, one for each resistor. The audio processing unit 40 may be capable of asserting any combination of the three resistor on/off signals in response to a volume control signal received as input signal 8 from the keypad 30. By selectively activating any combination of three resistors, the audio control unit can change the amplitude of the audio output signal 14 such that the volume of the selected animal sound 62 played by the speaker 60 is changed.

✓ Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 5 to read as follows.

A3 Fig. 3 is a schematic illustration of one embodiment of a packaging 68 for the system 15. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 3, the system 15 is packaged in two discrete housings 70 and 80. The speaker 60 is provided alone within the housing 80 (such that the speaker housing can serve as the housing 80), with the remaining components of the system 15, including the touch pad 30, being associated with a second housing 70. In this respect, the touch pad 30 can be provided on a face 72 of the housing 70, with the remaining components of the system 15 being disposed therein. The components within the housing 70 communicate with the speaker 60 via a communication medium 90. In one embodiment of the present invention, the communication medium 90 is a run of speaker wire having a sufficient length (e.g., sixty feet) to enable the hunter to be undetected by an animal lured toward the speaker 60 in the field. Of course, the present invention is not limited in this respect as other lengths of speaker wire can be employed.